



NEWS RELEASE

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Capito Meets With USDA Rural Development Officials *For Joint Tour of the Hardy County Child Care Center Expansion*

Moorefield, WV – June 27, 2006: Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito recently met with USDA Rural Development State Director Robert Steptoe and Rural Development Specialist Wendell Alt to tour the Beginning Steps child care center. The Center currently provides child care services to 88 students ranging from 6 weeks old to 3rd graders. The tour of the facility was conducted by Sandra Bradley, Administrative Assistant for Beginning Steps.

Following an introduction, students of the Child Care Center enjoyed story time with Congresswoman Capito, some responding with comments indicating their favorite parts.

Sandra Bradley stated, "Many students receiving services from Beginning Steps consist primarily of children from families residing in Grant, Hampshire, & Hardy Counties, whose parents are employed with a local Hardy County business or industry." Ms. Bradley indicated that the need for the center's expansion is strongly supported by most local businesses and will allow the child care facility to nearly double its current student capacity. Sandra added that recent rapid economic growth resulting primarily from expansions within poultry and cabinet-manufacturing industries, along with current development of Corridor-H, created the need to provide additional capacity for furnishing quality child care services.

The \$1.25 million total project financing for completion of the child care center expansion was made available from a \$750,000 Local Economic Development Assistance Grant from the Office of the Governor, Joe Manchin, III, in addition to a \$500,000 Appalachian Regional Commission Grant administered by USDA Rural Development. The expansion is projected to be completed July 31, 2006.

Parties inquiring about the various USDA Rural Development programs and services available for Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral or Pendleton Counties can reach Rural Development by calling 1-304-822-3020, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office is located at the USDA Service Center within the Heritage Hill Complex along U.S. Rt. 50. The address is 500 E. Main St., Suite E., Romney, WV. Wendell Alt is the Rural Development Specialist for the five-county area.

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